

Serial No. 09/978,276

Amendment After Allowance Oct. 03, 2006

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraphs following paragraph [0007] (which is the location immediately at the top of page 4, in the specification as filed):

~~[0000-04]~~ In another aspect, a method of configuring a communications path in a communications network from a start node to an end node through intermediate nodes is provided. The method comprises: establishing a partial path for the communications path using at least one communications link associated with a first routing scheme from the start node to a terminating node in the intermediate nodes; and at the terminating node, if another communication link associated with the first routing scheme to a next-hop node towards the end node does not exist in the plurality of intermediate nodes, then conducting subsequent steps. The subsequent steps comprise: establishing the terminating node as an interim egress node for the communications path; notifying the start node of mapping parameters for the partial communications path to the terminating node; initiating establishment of a secondary communications path associated with another routing scheme differing from the first routing scheme from the terminating node to the end node through at least one node downstream from the terminating node in the intermediate nodes; and notifying the start node of parameters for the secondary communications path to the end node after establishment of the secondary communications path. In the method, the partial communications path and the secondary communications path combine to form the communications path from the start node to the end node.

~~[0007-02]~~ In the method, the another routing scheme may be IP forwarding and may not necessarily use MPLS.

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